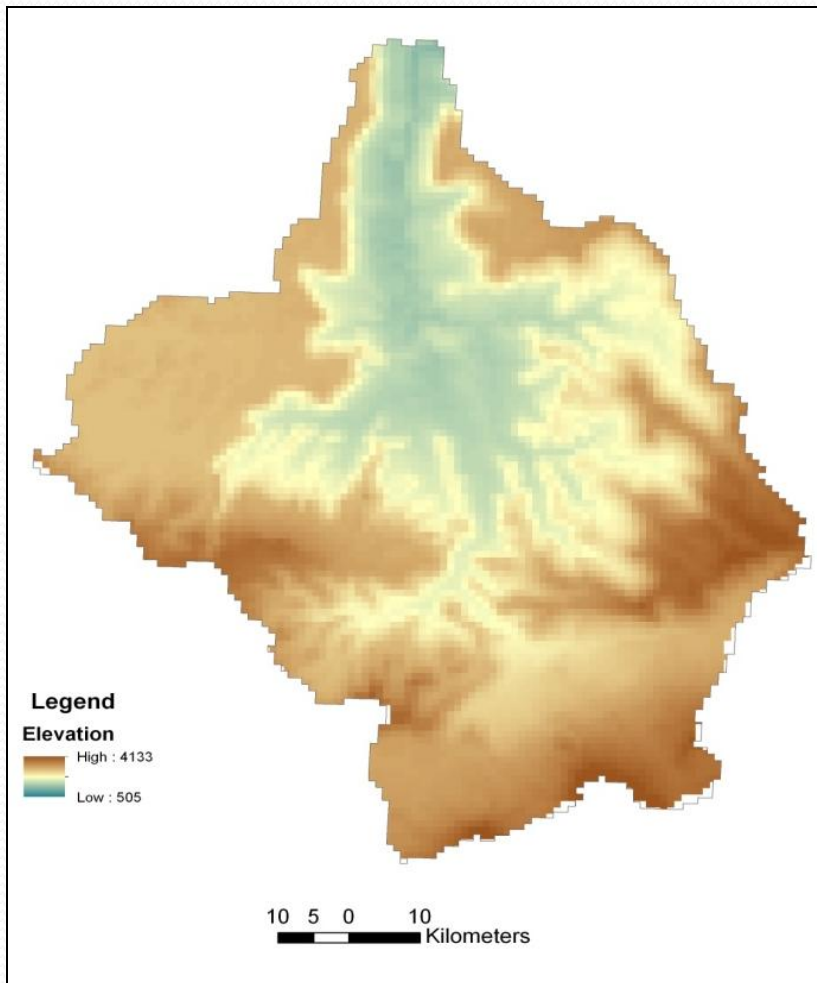


Site description - Jederiga



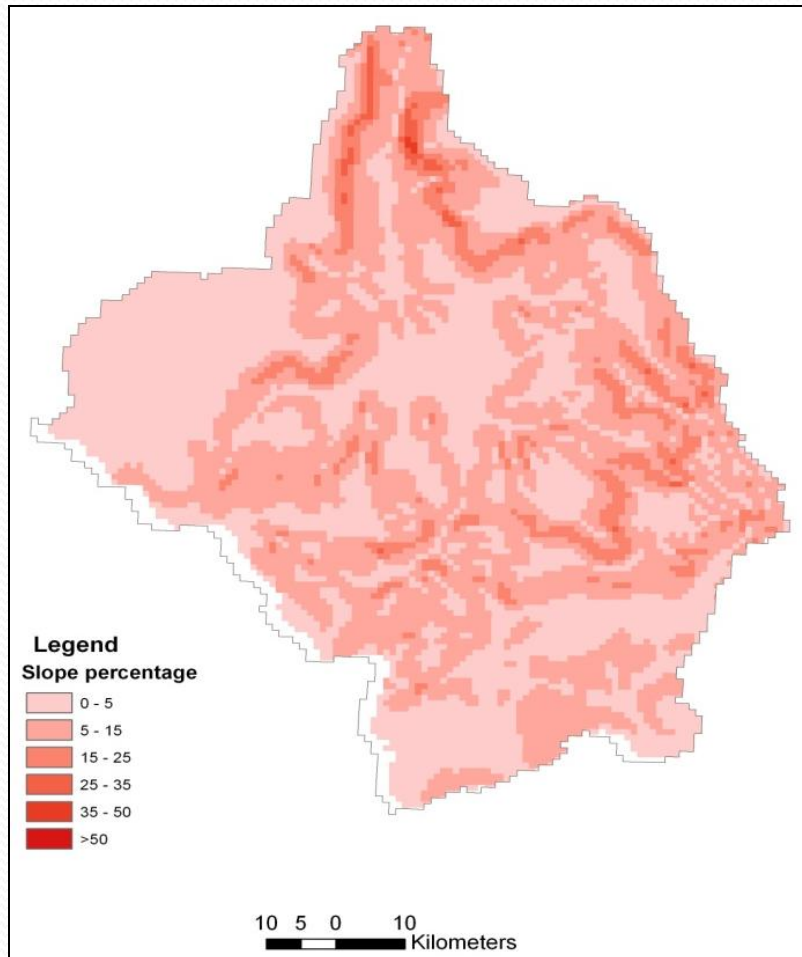
Alan Duncan, Beth Cullen, Catherine Pfeifer
International Forum on Water and Food,
Johannesburg, South Africa 14-16 Nov 2011

Elevation



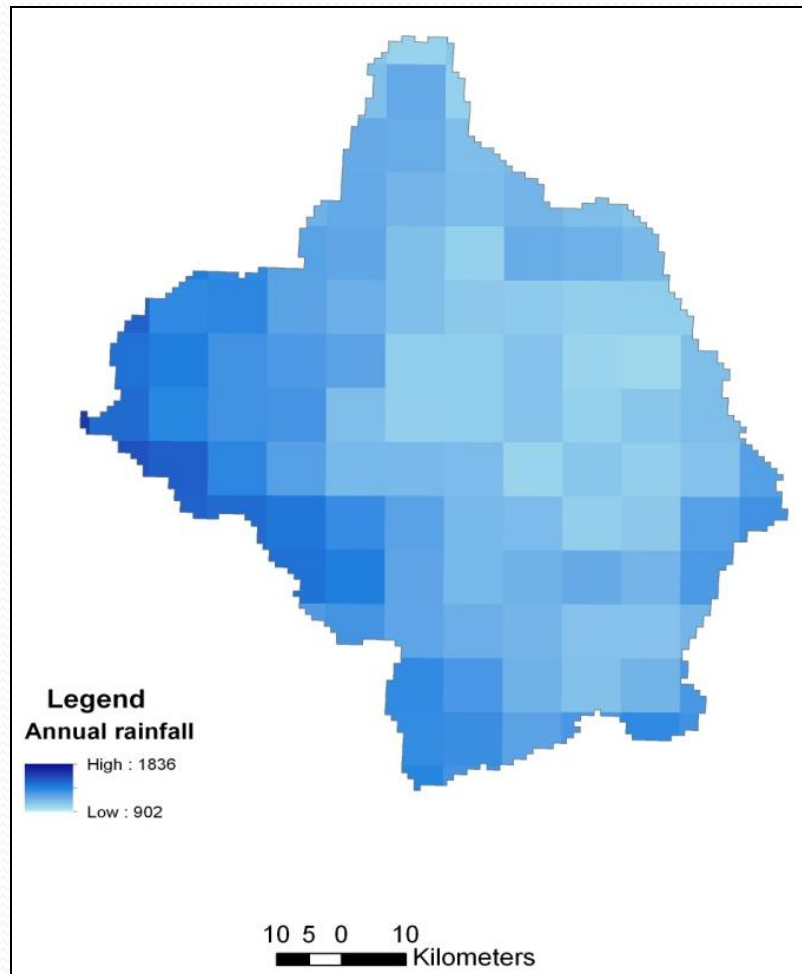
- Wide variation in elevation from Highland to Lowland

Slope



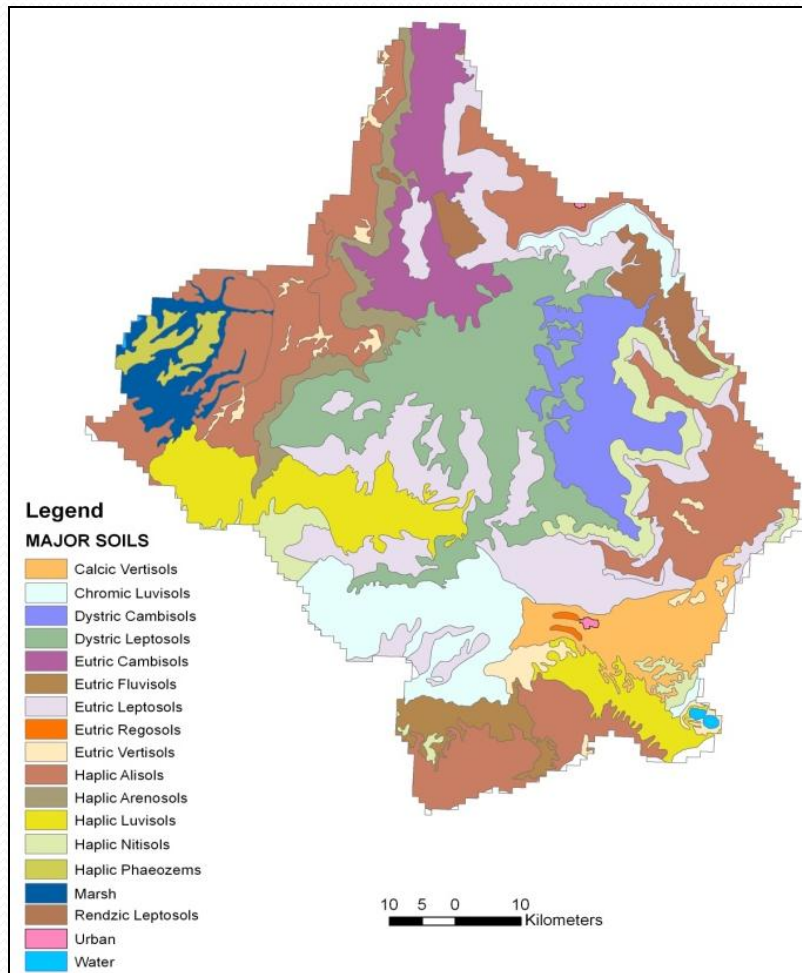
- Some very steep terrain especially in mid-altitude areas.

Rainfall



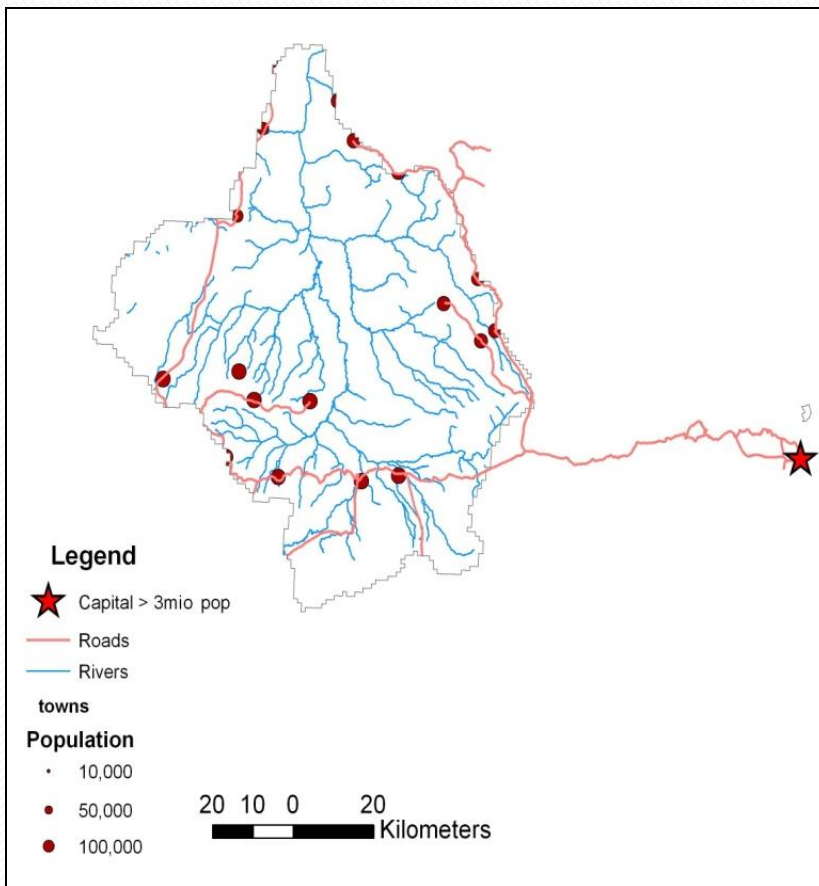
- Moderate rainfall of 900 to 1800 mm per year.
- Poorly distributed – most falls in an intense rainy season

Soils



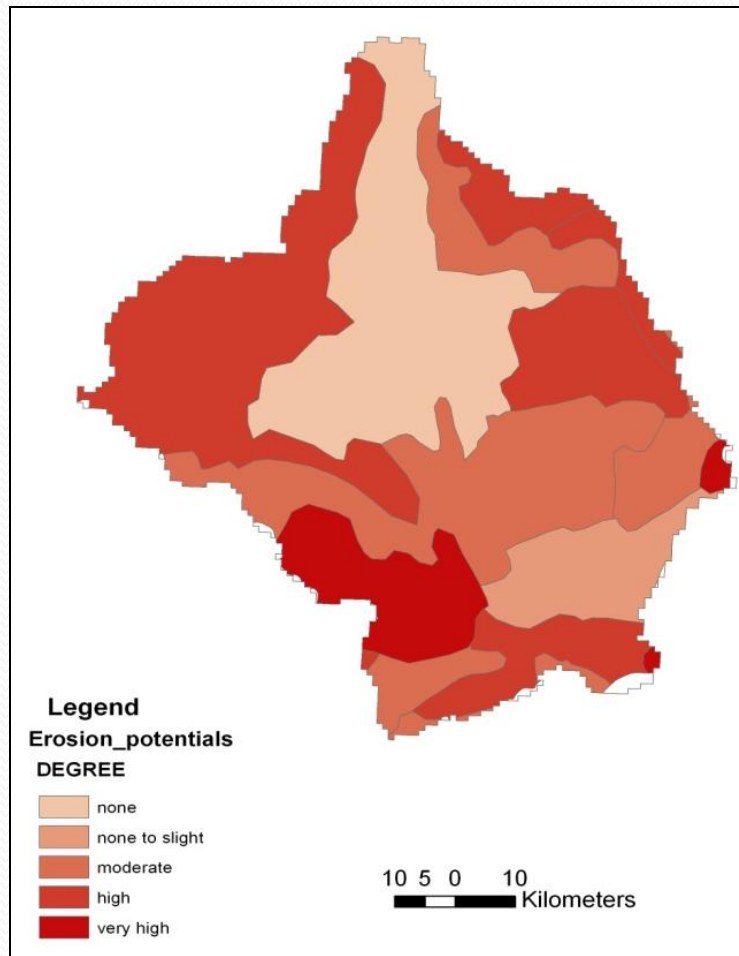
- Deep volcanic soils
- Susceptible to erosion
- Prone to waterlogging
- Low organic matter content

Access to markets and water



- Close to major urban centre
- Many watercourses for irrigation

Erosion potential



- Slope and soils mean high erosion potential, particularly in Highland and mid-altitudinal areas.

Innovation platform updates



Jegerida innovation platform

- First meeting held recently
- Actors: Many government line departments, Local Agricultural Research Center, Grassroots Development NGO
- **Key land and water management constraints identified**
 - Population increase leading to cultivation of steep slopes and land deforestation, soil erosion etc.
 - Limited understanding of land and water management problems and potential solutions
 - Poor farming practices
 - Very short land use planning horizon by farmers.
 - Farmers' limited knowledge of improved manage land and water practices
 - Limited use of improved land and water management technologies



Baseline diagnosis

- Looked at planning, implementation, innovation and livelihoods issues

System failures

- Top-down implementation and lack of farmer/community participation seem to be major historical factors in deteriorating NRM practices.
- Community based institutions may have been weakened due to strong government intervention during a previous regime
- Despite having an improved overall NRM policy, present government implementation shows room for improvement
- Although current approaches are said to be participatory, this is debatable which has implications for long-term sustainability.

NRM base in flux

- NRM base has changed radically
 - Floods in rainy season, drought in dry season
 - Rivers drying up
 - Eucalypt planting along rivers → problems
 - Scope for reforestation but distrust of govt to do this

Collective action not working

- Planning and implementation
 - Most successful NRM activities are on farm and initiated and carried out by farmers
 - Those requiring collective action are not working due to previous efforts in which farmers have been co-opted and ownership has been lacking.

Farmer awareness

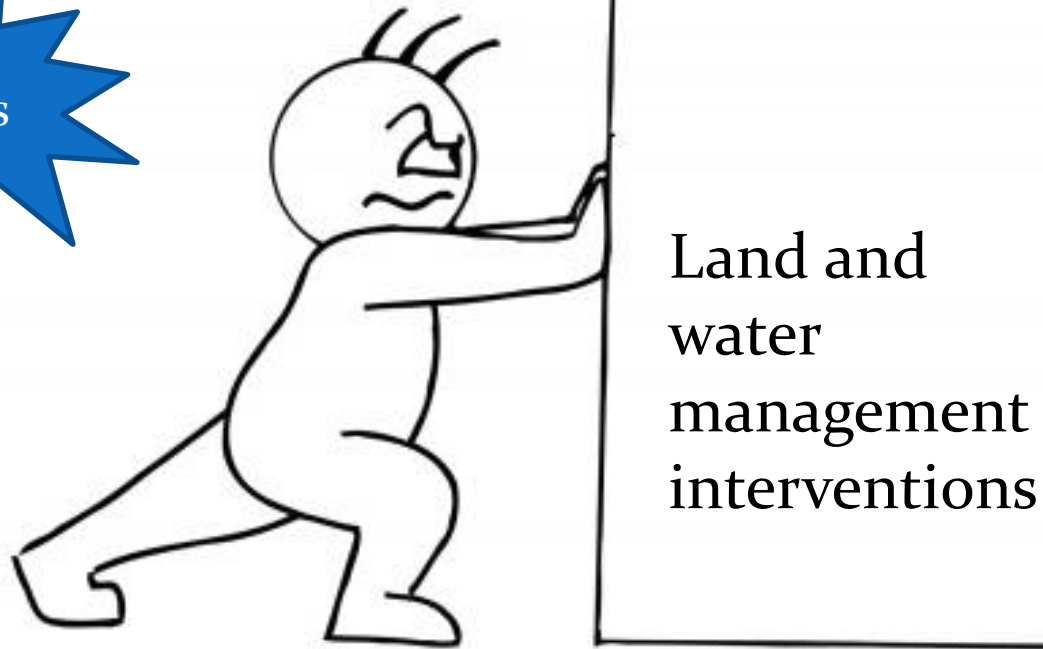
Many govt respondents stated that “farmer awareness” was a major stumbling block to progress – such attitudes are not conducive to building farmer engagement.




Implementation


Campaigns

Quotas





Farmers often destroy the results of their work under collective schemes which is perhaps indicative of their feelings towards these activities.

A large, spreading acacia tree dominates the center of the image, its thick, gnarled trunk and dense green canopy providing shade. A large group of people, mostly men, are gathered at the base of the tree, some sitting on the ground and others standing. The landscape is a dry, open savanna with scattered green shrubs and other smaller trees. In the background, rolling hills are visible under a hazy sky. The text is overlaid on the tree's canopy.

There are prominent local traditional institutions and these demonstrate that collective action is possible if initiated by community members themselves. Potential for harnessing these.

The extension crisis

- Extension agents have most contact with farmers but training is inadequate
- They are stuck in the middle of farmers and higher level govt. They pass info down to farmers but info flow back does not happen easily.
- They are not listened to in planning process
- They are de-motivated and transmit this to farmers
- Capacity building for extension agents and developing greater communication between extension agents and higher level actors could be important

